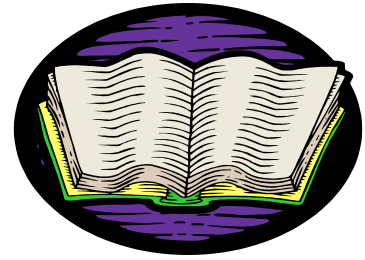


West Side Stories

*A Publication for Neighborhood Watch Leaders in the
Central and Dobson Patrol Districts*



Mesa Police
Department
Community Relations

New Programs Curb Auto Theft

A car is stolen in Arizona every 10 minutes and 6 seconds, making the state the worst in the nation for auto theft per capita, according to the FBI.

Don't be fooled by names that look impressive or that closely resemble the name of a well known organization.

It is important to do your homework when it comes to giving donations not only for this tragedy, but also for any organization that may be soliciting donations this season. Remember, there are many legitimate charities and organizations seeking assistance that will provide you with detailed information about the charity upon request.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Be wary of any reluctance to answer questions. Ask for the charity's full name, address and phone number.

Do not give cash. Always make contributions by check payable to the charity, not the individual collecting the donation.

Ask if the charity is registered with the Secretary of State's Office. You can find those who are registered at: www.sos.state.az.us.

Do not be pressured into giving money on the spot or allowing someone to come to your home for a pick-up of the contribution.

Consumers who feel they may have been victimized should call the Secretary of State's Office. Complaints may also be made to the Arizona Attorney General's Consumer Information and Complaint Division.



Key Points to Auto Theft Prevention:

- Lock the doors and roll up the windows.
- Take the keys with you.
- Hide valuables if you must leave them in your car.
- Park in well-lighted, busy areas.
- Keep your title in a secure place, not in the car.

**Volume 2, Issue 1
Spring 2003**

**Arizona Automobile
Theft Authority**

(602) 542-6187

1-800-458-5842

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Holly's Happenings



Important
Phone
Numbers

Greetings again from the Mesa Police Department's Community Relations Unit! I hope all has been well for my block captains.

On Oct. 20 I had the opportunity, along with Central C.A.T. Officer Alex Sandoval, to visit eight G.A.I.N. parties. What a fun evening!

I also touched base with many of you on Aug. 23, when we had our last Central/Dobson District Neighborhood Watch Captain's Meeting. The topic of the evening focused on the police department's Community Action Teams. We talked about community policing, C.A.T. objectives and how C.A.T. officers can lend assistance in resolving a variety of neighborhood issues. There were recent changes to both district teams, so the meeting provided a great opportunity to meet and greet our newest C.A.T. officers.

Response to the meeting was tremendous! In fact, the response was so great,

we were a standing room only crowd! This prompted me to decide to hold separate meetings for Central and Dobson captains. Hopefully, this will be more convenient for everyone involved. (Plus everyone should have a place to sit!) I hope attendance will remain high. If you have a friend who is interested in beginning a watch group, feel free to bring him or her along to our next meeting.

A special thanks to those who took the time to return the *West Side Stories* Survey. Overall, I had a very positive response. Everyone agreed that they would like to learn more about other Mesa Police Department Units in upcoming issues, so I will be sure to do that. As for recipes, 92% of the respondents would like a recipe published in each issue.

Most important, I'd like to implement other ideas suggested in the surveys. For example, a number of you would like to hear about successful block watch parties, gather new ideas to implement in

Holly Hosac	644-2033
Central/Dobson Neighborhood Watch Coordinator	
Community Relations Unit	644-2300
Community Relations FAX	644-2800
Police Non-Emergency	644-2211
Silent Witness	1-800-343-TIPS
Narcotics Hotline	(602) 440-5081
Graffiti Hotline	644-3083
Gang Hotline	644-4264
Central Substation	644-2229
Dobson Substation	644-2614

Neighborhood Watch Groups

(as of March 5, 2003)

Dobson	108
Central	124

Rape Aggression Defense for Women

Finally, a physical self-defense program for women has been developed that offers no-nonsense, practical techniques of defense and even better, the program is now offered by the Mesa Police Department!

Through a partnership with Mesa Parks and Recreation, the MPD Crime Prevention Unit is pleased to offer the Rape Aggression Defense System. The RAD System is a comprehensive course for women that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training.

Safety and survival in today's world requires a definite course of action. The RAD System teaches women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault by using easy, effective and proven self-defense and martial arts tactics. Our

goal is to provide women with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.



Commanders Corner

Great weather, good food, City of Mesa department staff, police units, city council members and state dignitaries were in abundance on October 20 for the city's third annual G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) event.

The evening wouldn't have been a success, however, without its most important element—you! More than 150 Neighborhood Watch groups participated by hosting a party between 4 and 9 p.m. and however big or small, each group had one thing in common: *They were all promoting the Neighborhood Watch program in their respective neighborhoods.*

Again, G.A.I.N. wouldn't be a success without the time and talent dedicated to this endeavor by the many Neighborhood Watch Captains, Co-Captains and Assistants who participate.

Many Neighborhood Watch Captains began their G.A.I.N. party planning in September by attending the police department's official G.A.I.N. Kick Off, coordinated by Crime Prevention Specialist Lindy Marino.

This year, G.A.I.N. Kick Off was held on Sept. 13 at HoHoKam Stadium. The Community Relations Unit sent out more than 1,500 invitations, with approximately 400 in attendance.

Central District had 68 captains attend G.A.I.N. Kick Off. Dobson District had 30 captains present. While this is a small percentage of block captains from both districts, it was understandable, considering the tragic events of that week.

Those in attendance had an opportunity to win one of many door prizes that could be used for a G.A.I.N. party giveaway, mingle with police and city staff and enjoy the sampling of foods catered by the students of E.V.I.T.'s culinary school.

On Oct. 20, there were six parties in the Dobson District and 25 in Central. While many groups had potlucks and watched the Diamondback game, there were also Halloween parties, BBQ's, bicycle parades, hayrides and even live music! Next year, I hope that more captains will plan a party to correlate with G.A.I.N. It gives the police department a chance to come out to at least one of your neighborhood events to visit and have fun.

Remember, if you can get your neighbors involved in your block watch, we all "GAIN!"



Calendar of Events

March 31

Central District Block Captains' Meeting
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Central Substation Community Room -
120 N. Robson Street

April 1

"Be Alert" Children's Safety Program
6 to 7 p.m.
Central Substation Community Room
120 N. Robson Street
(call (480) 644-xxxx to register)



April 2

Dobson District Block Captains' Meeting
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Dobson Ranch Library Meeting Room
2425 S. Dobson Road

April 8 and 10

R.A.D.— Self Defense for Women
5:30 to 10 p.m.
Red Mountain Multigenerational Center



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Mesa, Arizona 85201-6697
E-mail: holly_hosac@ci.mesa.az.us

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Frequently Asked Questions: City of Mesa's Alarm Department



Question: For my last Neighborhood Watch meeting, I asked for a copy of the police calls for service in my area. I noticed that our street had a lot of alarm calls. What exactly is an alarm call, and how are they tracked by the police department?

Answer: Many residents have long wondered what the City of Mesa's Alarm Department does and how this area of the police department affects their neighborhoods. Essentially, this department, part of Public Safety Communications, was designed to enforce City Code 6-15, which requires any homeowner or business with an alarm system to file a permit with the City of Mesa. The enforcement of this City Code includes, but is not limited to:

- Permit Issuance—Updates and Closing
- Fine Assessments
- Permit Revocations
- Citations of Non-Permitted Residences/Businesses
- Public Assistance with Alarm Company Issues
- Public Education of False Alarm Prevention

There are between 40 and 120 daily police department calls for service involving burglary alarms, panic alarms and armed rob-

bery alarms. In 2000, the Mesa Police Department responded to more than 21,000 alarm calls. To respond to these calls:

- 911 Operators and Dispatchers answer the call, dispatch it and do follow up calls as needed.
- One or more officers responds to the call.
- The helicopter may be dispatched.
- An officer writes a report, when warranted.
- Crime Scene Technicians respond as needed.
- The alarm office processes the daily calls, contacting the end user.
- Assessment letters are sent to the city's Finance Department and invoiced for billing.
- Alarm permits are mailed to customers without permits.

As you can see, many city resources are involved in responding to just one alarm call! This process, however, assures that alarm calls are handled quickly and courteously.

If you need an alarm user permit application or if you have questions about the City of Mesa Alarm Ordinance, call the Alarm Coordinator at 480-644-2699.